

Program Notice

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NATIONAL SOYBEAN EXPORT ASSESSMENT **SAMPLE COLLECTION PLAN FOR INTERIOR OFFICES**

1. PURPOSE

This notice outlines procedures for Official Service Providers (OSP) to use for collecting soybean samples for the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) soybean export assessment.

2. BACKGROUND

Starting with the 2007 soybean harvest, FGIS began a farm-gate soybean assessment, collecting 1,112 soybean samples directly from country elevators in 27 states across the United States. The objective of this farm-gate assessment is to collect soybean samples at their first point of sale, believed to be country elevators, so that the initial quality of U.S. soybeans coming directly from the farm can be determined.

The farm-gate assessment is projected to continue through the 2011 harvest, collecting 5 years of data in the process. Each fall after samples are collected, full factor analyses are conducted to assess levels of both grade determining and non-grade determining factors for U.S. soybeans. In addition to grade determining factors, a detailed breakout of foreign material (FM) characterization is conducted to determine various components of the FM. Damage, FM, FM composition, moisture, oil, protein, splits, test weight, and the resulting grade are analyzed and recorded.

To get an idea of how the quality of U.S. soybeans differs from the farm-gate to export, FGIS is now conducting a soybean export assessment. Like the farm-gate assessment, soybean samples collected from the export assessment will also receive full factor analyses (including both grade determining and non-grade determining factors), as well as a detailed breakout of FM characterization. The U.S. soybean export assessment will provide a general overview of how FM composition changes as soybeans move through the marketing chain. Samples gathered from the soybean export assessment will also be used to test for pesticide residues.

3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This year's soybean export assessment **begins September 1, 2008**, and will continue through January 31, 2009. We expect to continue this assessment each year at least through Fiscal Year 2012.

4. SAMPLE COLLECTION

Approximately 10 percent of U.S. soybean exports are shipped from interior service points and graded by official OSP's. In order to analyze the required number of export samples from these interior locations, it is essential for OSP's to provide assistance to the Market and Program Analysis Staff (MPAS) in the sample collection process. OSP participation is based on its historic volume of monthly export soybean inspections.

FGIS will provide each participating OSP with a sample collection kit, which will include plastic sample bags containing unique ID's, zip ties, pre-paid pre-addressed FedEx air bills, and FedEx packs for returning the required samples.

5. COLLECTION PROCEDURES

The following table provides the number of samples required from each OSP, and the sample collection month. Samples may be collected from any mode of export shipment (i.e., containers, barge, rail, or truck).

Export Sample Collection Requirements
Collect samples from September 2008 through January 2009.

Agency	September	October	November	December	January	Total
Central Iowa			1			1
Eastern Iowa		1	1	1	1	4
Fremont	1	1	1			3
Hastings	1	2	2	2		7
Kankakee	1	1	1	1	1	5
Kansas	1	2	2	2		7
Lincoln	1	1	1	1	1	5
Missouri	1	2	2	2		7
Omaha		1				1
Sioux City	1	1	1	1		4

If OSP's are unable to collect the requested number of samples during a given month, they should make up for it by taking additional samples the following month. For example, in the month of September, Fremont is asked to collect one sample. If they are unable to collect a sample in September, they should collect two samples in October, and so on.

Collect at least a 2,000 gram portion from each sample that is selected for the soybean assessment. Divide the sample into two equal portions, each weighing approximately 1,000 grams or more. Place each separate portion into a bag provided by MPAS. On the blank label affixed to these bags, print the sample identification and the inspection date.

Note: Each bag MPAS provides has a unique identification number affixed to it. Because two portions are needed for each sample, two bags will contain the same identification number. Official personnel must ensure that the 2 portions from the selected sample are placed in bags with the same identification number.

The first portion will be used for grade-determining factor analyses including FM compositional analyses. This sample portion must be sent to the Sioux City Inspection agency using the pre-paid FedEx air bills.

The second portion will be used for pesticide residue analysis and must be sent to the National Grain Center using pre-paid FedEx air bills.

Note: Please ensure that for the two portions, one air bill is addressed to Sioux City, IA and the other air bill is addressed to the National Grain Center in Kansas City, MO so that both portions do not go to the same place.

6. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions concerning this notice to Ross Heiman at (816) 823-2580 or by email at Ross.D.Heiman@usda.gov.

/s/ John Giler

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